

ADDRESS

OF

HON. DANIEL NEEDHAM,

AT THE

DEDICATION OF THE TOWN HALL

AT

FALMOUTH, MASS.,

SEPTEMBER 29, 1881.

JOSEPH S. FAY, GEO. E. CLARKE, JAS. M. LAMBERT,
COMMITTEE.

AYER, MASS.: :

PRINTED AT THE PUBLIC SPIRIT OFFICE.

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FALMOUTH, Oct. 5, 1881.

HON. DANIEL NEEDHAM,

DEAR SIR.—Believing that the distribution among our townsmen of your admirable address delivered at the dedication of our new Town Hall on the 29th of September, would be productive of much good, the Committee in charge of the services, on that occasion, respectfully ask for a copy of the address for publication.

Very respectfully,

JOSEPH S. FAY,
GEO. E. CLARKE,
J. M. LAMBERT, } Committee.

BOSTON, Nov, 22, 1881.

To Joseph S. Fay, Esq., Geo. A. Clarke, Esq., and J. M. Lambert, Esq.,

GENTLEMEN.—Your request for a copy of the Address delivered by me at the dedication of the new Town Hall at Falmouth, Sept. 29th, 1881, came to hand at a time when official engagements fully occupied my time. I hasten now to forward you the Address in accordance with your kind request.

Very Respectfully,

DANIEL NEEDHAM.

ADDRESS.

*May it please your Excellency, Mr. Chairman, fellow citizens
and ladies and gentlemen:*

With bowed heads, reverent hearts and grieved minds, a nation extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean, has followed the remains of its dead chief from the Capitol city to its final resting place. The tolling bell in every village and district and city in the great land has mournfully recited the story of his tragic death, and the neart stricken grief of a bereaved people.

He was a true type of American manhood, elevated from the people, among the people, by the people, by a recognition of those qualities of heart and mind which for more than a century have been the outgrowth of our institutions and the foundation of our government. We see the elected and beloved ruler yield the life so dear to us all, and doubly dear to us in him our accepted president, and no confusion of the civil policy, no delay in the establishment of succession comes to the Republic, whose life and security has been and is in a recognition of the capacity of the people to make their own laws and elect their own rulers.

Turning from the sad thoughts and scenes of the last three months, without for a moment forgetful of the lesson they have taught and the immortal pages they have made in our National history, the town of Falmouth, incorporated June the 4th, 1686, gathers in its son's and daughter's for congratulation in the erection of this beautiful structure

and for an hour's consideration of the connection established between the town hall and the stability of the great government, which, without shock or misgiving, whilst it has dropped upon the grave of its dead chief the tears of sorrow, it has given to its new and acknowledged head the respect of loyalty and the confidence of love.

What son of Falmouth is not proud of this day? What son of Falmouth, whose father has looked out upon this broad and beautiful ocean—familiarized himself with the ever passing fleet of moving ships over the waters of Buzzard's Bay and Vineyard Sound, does not to-day rejoice, that the labors of sire and grandsire, planted deep the roots of self-government, out of which, individual manhood has been secured for every descendant! What son of Falmouth, who in youth wandered from the native soil and aided in building new homes and new civilization in later established settlements, is not proud that he can come back to-day and refresh his eyes with the landscape of his boyhood—the light-house of Nobska Hill; the high undulating shores of the distant islands, and the ever changing beauties of the surrounding sea!

Home—home—what is it not? Can the painter put it on canvas? Can the poet weave it into verse? Can the orator picture it by metaphor or anecdote? No—no. It is of the heart, and appeals to the affections as no other associations can. And when after the lapse of generations, the aged man or woman returns to the native home, although grave stones alone indicate the names of the old friends and acquaintances, the forms and faces of the departed, again people the villages, walk the streets and utter benedictions for the sons who remain to fill their places.

Is it among the high peaks of our New England mountains, or upon its green valleys through which flow the streams which have given industry and thrift more than

their normal significance, or down by the waters of the great ocean, where noble ships ride at anchor and the beating waves forever chant the requiem for the dead, and marches for the living,—the home never loses its wondrous power of inspiration, but comes back as the ever recurring spot upon which the character of life received its first and most durable impression.

It is not an idle or ceremonious matter when we revisit the scenes of our nativity. Though the gray locks may encircle our brow—though the elastic step may long since have taken its departure; though the mind from excessive labor or lapse of time, has lost its relish for the current activities of business and government, youth with its wild fancies—bold determination, and almost buoyant step, comes back to us as in the days of yore, making us again children on the lawn, in the old church, at the school, or fishing in the waters of the Bay. Native born and adopted citizens assemble to-day to dedicate this beautiful edifice erected and paid for by the people of Falmouth, to the purposes of civil liberty and popular government.

That it is in strange contrast with the rude structures of the early settlers; that its high walls, beautiful frescoes, and convenient architectural arrangement, is significant of prosperous homes and the cultivation of improved taste and skill, in no way effects the connecting link between the town hall, as the foundation institution of the people's government and the great government of the people which enfolds in its benign and protecting embrace, fifty millions of willing, cheerful and happy subjects.

Falmouth has not been destitute of the rich experience which has come to most of our early Massachusetts settlements. Her lands among the best, if not the best of Cape Cod; her sons developing the interests of commerce by the early establishment of trade on the high seas; repel-

ling the invasion of a foreign foe which won the admiration of the lion-hearted British officers, who in the royal Nimrod, bombarded the town in the summer of eighteen hundred and fourteen ; and at a later time when the flag of the Republic was imperilled, going forth to subdue the spirit of Rebellion, the seeds of which had been planted by slavery and nurtured by the deep shadows which unrecognized human independence threw over our developing civilization ; have enabled her to maintain her prominence as a municipality, and secure for her sons a record of manly history, which will forever adorn the archives of the Great Republic.

Through the vista of nearly two centuries, can the people of Falmouth scan the growth and development of their town.

Two centuries ! Could the mothers of Falmouth, in that far off period, with their spinning wheels and hand looms industriously manufacturing cloth and clothing for all the members of the household—could the fathers, breaking the land with heavy and expensive wrought iron ploughs and harvesting with rude implements and weary labor, have looked down this grand vista and seen the progress to be made in the five generations which would succeed them, they might have well considered their toil and labor the seed sowing for a harvest of intelligence and wealth to be gathered by their posterity, and the results woven into a fabric which would adorn and aid in immortalizing a great nation.

Let this be the thought of the hour—to trace the connection between the past and the present—the perilous and laborious days of the fathers, with the prosperous and prospering days of the sons ; the independence of individual manhood and the prosperity of man and state and

nation, with the independence of the Town Hall, the State House, and the National Capitol.

Who of us, however broad his reading; however thoughtful his study; however brilliant his imagination, can realize with the most distant approximation the beaten pathway of two centuries of New England life.

The wilderness; the wild beasts of the forest; the wilder men of the new world; the rude altars established for public worship; and the rude cabins which made the altars possible, and protected and sheltered the neighborhood, which in two hundred years was to give tone and direction to a nation of fifty millions of people; whose voice could be heard among all people as missionaries and teachers; whose humane institutions were to remodel the penal institutions of the world; whose fiscal influence would depress or elevate the Bourse of Paris, and the Exchequer of England, whose flag would command the respect of all nations, and whose legislation would liberalize the rule of Emperors and Kings.

Look at that feeble band of men and women seeking shelter, from European tyranny in the wilds of an unexplored continent. See their limited means; their exposed families, their abandonment of race and kindred, and comfortable homes, to establish the recognition of right to individual manhood and citizenship.

The eye grows dim as we look adown the long passage over which like an army of progress they have tramped—tramped—tramped—with the rights of man on their banner, and the herald of truth, like the flame of fire, leading the triumphant march.

The mind becomes abashed as through the long pages of history it contemplates the small beginning; the rapid growth and the glorious progress secured by our American culture.

No hereditary right to reign ; no inheritance by King or potentate as though the people were flocks and herds ; cessation of wars of conquest ; free development of commerce ; ample provision for the unfortunate poor, insane and aged ; economy in the administration of government and equal representation as the basis of government :—

This was the new gospel ; in the language of the great English preacher, uttered in 1688 :—“The dominion of Kings changed for the dominion of laws, and the dominion of priests to the dominion of reason and conscience.”

In looking back through the progress of the generations, what most impresses us of the highest consequence in the growth we have had and the National influence we have secured.

Is it not our material prosperity, evidences of which meet us in almost every home, and to-day, for this town of Falmouth, culminates in this convenient and beautiful Town Hall ?

MATERIAL PROSPERITY. Write it out. Look at it and read it carefully. It is the crowning glory of New England, and has made possible the highest culture in church and school and state.

MATERIAL PROSPERITY. What is society without it ! Be ye fed and be ye clothed will do nothing for a hungry man and a naked people. Talk to the hungry of religion, of virtue, of humanity ; talk to the shivering mothers in vain trying to give warmth to their freezing babes—will they hear you ? Do they listen ? Can they listen ? Pile up the church spires to the clouds, fill in the walls with precious stones, adorn the windows with marvelous designs, but do they who are hungry and cold behold the beautiful architecture and admire the skill of the artist ! No, no ! Hunger must be appeased ; cold must be held back ; and then, when to the weakened body comes refreshing food and to the cold

limbs the artificial heat which nature is unable to supply, the temple may raise its high tower and the walls thereof may be made to tell of the wondrous riches of the earth and the artistic power of man, and then appreciating minds will drink it in, and souls will be elevated and new creations will be born to humanity.

Material prosperity underlies civilization and christianity ; it underlies humanity itself, for all human development grows out of it. It is before the home—for the home depends upon it—and the home precedes the school and the church.

Material prosperity wherever we find it is *prima facie* evidence of manhood. On the farm it advertises the virtue and good habits of the occupant. The well-painted house, the comfortable barn, the well-tilled fields all tell of a useful life and manly cultivation. The home of the mechanic with its garden of flowers or house plants arranged on portico or window sill ; the neat and tidy wife and children—reflecting shadows from polished floors ; the family library made up of the Bible, the dictionary and a few useful and instructive books, supercede an introduction of the owner to give assurance of his value as a citizen and his good habits as a man.

The sailor who imperils his life upon the great ocean and seeks the treasures of the deep waters, that homes may be built up and communities enriched by a hazardous but intelligent industry, adds to his native land that which nature having denied, skill and enterprise can alone supply.

Is it a wonder then that material success is the first thought of young men and women ! Not only does home depend upon it, but society, which represents aggregated homes and builds roads and bridges, schoolhouses and churches ; establishes laws and provides means for protecting the well disposed from the vicious and lawless.

No wonder that the young maiden, having finished her technical school days and contemplating the future, looks over the young men who compose the neighborhood, with a business-like eye, determined, if possible, that her life partner shall be thrifty and successful in the pursuits of active life.

No wonder that the young man, as he leaves school, thinks over his fitness for a trade or occupation, and contemplates with anxiety the success which has attended and may attend his chosen employment.

No wonder that the luminous marks of success at the forum, in the pulpit, in the halls of state, in the factory and mill, on the farm, in mechanics and in art, here and there lifting up their shining faces and receiving the admiration and honor of the masses, distract and bewilder the youth starting out on an untried pilgrimage over a way for which no chart or compass can be supplied, and industry, intelligence and virtue have proved the only successful safeguards.

No wonder that the end, so fascinating and brilliant, should be desired without pursuing the uncertain and laborious way by which the world's grand and noble specimens of manhood have secured results.

But as true as "no cross no crown," there is no well developed manhood without persistent and skillfully planned industry and patient, intelligent, plodding labor.

New England has been foremost in its schools; in its colleges; in its churches; in its beneficent and charitable institutions; in its gifts of teachers and missionaries at home and abroad; but its power has rested upon its patient and persistent industry and its constant hunger for intellectual and religious development.

Take out the intelligent industry from New England and you take out all that has made and still continues to

make her a beacon light to the nation and the world. To attempt to attain the end without the struggle is as idle as to attempt scholarship without study or wisdom without observation.

A neighbor of my father's in a seaboard town, having several ships engaged in the South American trade, and being a man of wealth, desired to make captains of his sons, who were too indolent to study the laws of navigation. He accomplished his purpose, and secured insurance on his ships, and safety for his cargoes, by employing well qualified mariners for first mates and paying them captain's wages. The sons, although captains by name, never knew the compensation which comes from the labor preceding the successful mastery of an occupation.

Such captains could never have positions among captains, and would only exist as laughing stocks among practical men.

Though endowed with a large inheritance, these sons, after the death of their father, spent all their patrimony, and died bankrupts in the endeavor to carry on a business which they were too indolent to learn.

The rugged and sterile soil of New England promised but little to the early settlers; but without wealth, without distinction of birth, with plain manners and modest ambitions, the fathers overcame rugged hills, sterile soil and uninviting climate by manly character. The man, superior to every obstacle, made the surmounting of each hindrance a stepping-stone the better to enable him to overcome every succeeding one.

They found a wilderness; they have left a land covered with productive farms. They entered the realms of barbarism, but with intelligent industry they permeated barbarism with a higher and better civilization than the world had ever known. Not wealth; not social distinction; not in-

heritage of name or title, but character—real manhood secured for them this grand conquest. This character our fathers taught us to venerate—this manhood in the highest example of sire and grandsire they have left for our emulation.

Shall the success of the past typify the success of the future? The conditions have changed. Means have become more abundant and inherited wealth is an every-day matter. The chances of enterprise and manly development lessen almost in direct ratio with the amount of wealth inherited. It is the young man born to fortune about whom society should now be anxious. He who starts with only his hands and brains finds himself courted neither by the poor or rich. To him temptation is a comparative stranger. His necessities require his time, and busy hours are the woof of his life. The gambler and sharper stand aloof, for in him there is no magnet of attraction.

But the youth born to fortune! Look at him! Hemmed in from early infancy by the best of organized society, educated at the select schools, he starts out a full positioned man on the very threshold of his active life. Jockeys make love to him; gamblers in the fashion of high-bred gentlemen flatter him; fashionable society courts him; and on every hand temptation in its most attractive form comes forth to salute him and do him honor. If he resists temptation and establishes habits of prudence and thrift, he deserves a thousand times more credit than the young man born to no fortune but a healthy body and a sound mind.

Yet the struggle for wealth that the sons and daughters may have large inheritances was never greater than to-day. The thousands who have fallen; the thousands who are falling, make no impression upon the thousands of fathers whose ambition from month to month and year to year seems only the accumulation of property.

May we not stop a moment in this ambition for wealth for which so many appear to have no use and which at the best may paralyze the ambition and enterprise of children, and see if the accumulators may not attain a higher usefulness by a more liberal expenditure in their own lifetime! How many a man has gone to his grave dwarfed in his manhood by the scrimping expenditures made upon himself! How many a wife has secured a premature decay by an ever-continuing toil which a more liberal outlay of the husband in support of a higher type of domestic policy would have prevented.

How many times an over-anxious desire for accumulating has prevented the accumulator from recognizing his first great fiscal duty to society, the payment of an honest and just tax! thus debarring himself from doing his full part toward the support of the educational institutions of his country and paying his legal part of providing for the unfortunate poor and insane. No man can afford thus to imperil his manhood by withholding the discharge of that duty which the acceptance of citizenship imposes. This is the help wealth can give to its less fortunate neighbors without humiliating them.

The danger to New England and the nation from inherited wealth may not be great; but the loss of enterprising men who but for this illusion might add lustre and distinction to our American citizenship, cannot be a matter unworthy the serious thought of our New England fathers.

The great female orator of America, who has recently won as high distinction in Europe as she has heretofore in her own country, has a lecture on "What shall we do with our girls?" The interrogatory may be applied to our boys as well. So solicitous are we that our boys should do well, that we often find them at the threshold of manhood with a capacity for no useful labor, and stinted and dwarfed by

our over anxiety that their future will not be provided for. We have given them an education! Yes, that is pretty generally done, if passing them through the stages of grammar and high school and college will secure education. But what then? Education of books is well; but it is a small part of education for life. Even college education will fail in earning bread and butter for a family, unless it is directed to some practical end.

College education is not everything. It may be a help, but it necessarily secures nothing in the way of practical work. Unless a man be apt to teach, as Horace Mann so well said, it will not even make a teacher of him.

Fathers must not deceive themselves by believing that everything is accomplished for their sons when by great industry, self-sacrifice and economy they have secured for them a college education.

Fathers must not deceive their sons by allowing them to believe that a mastery of Greek and Latin is a conquest which will secure homesteads and full purses.

THE TREE THAT BEARS THE GOLDEN FRUIT HAS A DIFFERENT ROOT FROM THE VERBS OF DEAD LANGUAGES.

Some years since a graduate of a New England college called at my office with a letter of introduction from a well known professor. Asking the young man to be seated, I asked him how I could serve him. He said he desired a cashiership in a bank, and wished my assistance. Have you ever been in a bank? No, sir. What are your qualifications for so high a position? I have been through college. That is well. I stood high in mathematics. That is well, too, I replied. What more? To my astonishment, he said, Can anything more be needed? I replied, O yes. Going through college is well enough, but it is a small part of the qualifications you need. I then told him he must have a knowledge of the business. How can I get that?

By beginning at the bottom and working up. Do you mean, said he, that I shall go into a bank and sweep and dust? I replied that was not necessary—but that in order to establish his claim to a cashiership he must begin with a clerkship and work up through the grades of positions until his fitness was recognized by the directors. Said I, if your father is a rich man and desires to establish a bank and make you the cashier, he would have a perfect right to do so—as he alone takes the risk—but when a Board of Directors, who are trustees of the property of stockholders, select a cashier, the business public would never justify them in taking a man who was not educated to the business.

The young man left my office with a sorrowful countenance, remarking that his college course had been of no service to him, and that four years of valuable life had been lost.

This is by no means an isolated case. Thousands of young men, who are graduated from our colleges, fail to find out that text book knowledge has not necessarily a money value until brought face to face with the unwelcome discovery.

It is too bad in this busy and practical world to allow any young man to think for a moment that he has not his share of the work to perform. Out of usefulness comes happiness. Not out of money! not out of education! not out of an honored ancestry, however noble or grand! but out of usefulness! Out of real life work, in a life industry, by which the world will be made better, wiser, stronger! by which yokes will be lifted from burdened necks! by which griefs will be assuaged and life made more acceptable to the toiling millions.

The frequent failures of college graduates to the attainment of an ideal, is that their means of obtaining the ideal

are not of a practical character, and the fault is largely in home neglect.

The Technical School ; the Agricultural College, and to an extent the scientific course, come in to supply a much needed help. AN ACRE OF GROUND TO PLOW AND PLANT AND HOE AND HARVEST, IS FULLY EQUAL TO A GYMNASIUM FOR RECREATION, AND FAR BETTER FOR DISCIPLINE.

What shall we do with our young men? Certainly the least we can do is to give them the benefit of our own experience and observation.

We know that intelligent industry and economy have made the wealth and wisdom of men. That if the productive forces stopped, we should destroy ourselves as a nation in a space of time easily measured by a generation.

That to grow and hold our present growth we must have as active generations in the future as we have had in the past.

Let it be written and published and preached, for the pulpit is not too sacred a place for its utterance, that all useful labor is honorable—that labor is necessary for human progress and that the best means out of which to develop a man is to educate him from first to last to the necessity of usefulness by manly occupation.

He who is educated to a useful industry, lives in the very air of thrift. Dependent upon no one—waiting upon no one—self-poised he moves grandly along the pathway of life, building and maintaining a comfortable home and making a record of usefulness at every turn, his life is a varied field upon which he reaps as with the sickle of the husbandman an ever maturing harvest of human happiness.

The history of humanity has established beyond question—

1st. That well developed manhood depends largely upon an appreciation of physical activity.

2d. That in order to secure the most valuable type of physical activity, there must be a training of the physical qualities of the man, which will respond to his studied and carefully conceived ideal.

3d. That in the ratio of well directed physical activity is the true growth of national greatness and prosperity.

No country offers to its people opportunities for better homes than our own. Our diversified climate compassing in its extent a temperature of every desirable character ; our varied soil, adapted to the production of every fruit and grain ; our high mountains, deep valleys and broad prairies, giving a variety of landscape unsurpassed and opportunities for homestead selections in accordance with the most varied tastes and means, make our physical territory a rare inheritance to our sons and a marvelous temptation to the restless and more enterprising people of other nationalities.

Our condition as a people, to-day, is in wonderful contrast with every other civilized nation.

Prosperity is everywhere. From the most indifferent workman who easily commands his dollar a day to the most successful farmer, mechanic, manufacturer or merchant, who has broadened his field of usefulness and activity, so that neighborhoods and even large municipalities depend upon his life ; and his income ranges far beyond his varied and increasing wants.

For four years have the farmers of America been feeding the people of Europe. That starvation would have existed even on the shores of the Danube as it has existed among the people of the far East had not the products of American agriculture been within their reach, is not a statement admitting of doubt or question.

The falling off of our exports of grain is what every careful observer of trade has long expected. Better harvests

abroad lessen the temporary demands for our exports of agricultural products.

But the prosperity of American agriculture is not dependent upon the starving people of Ireland, England or Russia.

The education of our people is constantly developing new uses to which our soil products can be devoted. Corn is converted by the process of fermentation to grape sugar, and the day is not far distant when art will devise the process by which as valuable a granulated sugar shall be made of the corn stalk as is now made from the sugar cane. When that shall be discovered, the increased value of corn product is a matter beyond the possibility of estimation. Already the production of glucose and grape sugar have added largely to the value of this great American staple. Recently, directly from the corn, a process of manufacturing lactic acid has been discovered—and if this is a practical success, as there is every reason now for believing it is, a new and vast field will be opened to the American corn raiser and a new industry presented to our people of supplying the world at a cheap rate with a chemical substance that will entirely supersede cream of tartar.

The sugar beet culture is still in its infancy—but enough has been established to satisfy the most incredulous observer, that the few remaining obstacles in the way of complete triumph will soon be overcome.

Our new processes of manufacturing flour have greatly stimulated the wheat culture of the country, and are making our American wheat, which contains a larger proportion of starch than any wheat produced on the Continent of Europe, an indispensable luxury in every home of wealth in the civilized world.

Our cotton crop compasses every variety of the raw material, and although England has expended millions in her efforts to make her mills independent of our Southern

planters, and has given utterance time and again to the attainment of an assured success, she is no nearer independence than she was before the great Rebellion.

Never was the prospect of a great ingathering harvest of compensation better for the cotton planter of the South than in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-one.

The cattle products of Texas, New Mexico and the more distant States and territories of America have established their markets not only in the Western, Middle and Eastern States but throughout England and Germany. This business, already making immense traffic for our railroads and steamships and taking high rank among our exports, is destined to be one of the most important fields which American industry has undertaken to explore. It cannot be measured. No return of frequent rains; no patronage of government by subsidy or land grant; no education by school or Agricultural College, can enable the older nations of Europe to compete with America in this immeasurable business which is now so rapidly developing.

Let us give one thought to the industry and the prospects of our New England manufactures. No prosperity of the past can yet challenge comparison with the prosperity of to-day. Mill after mill has been reared and the waters of our New England rivers have been exhausted in the ability to furnish power for the increasing industry and enterprise of our people. Our cotton and woolen manufactures find a market in every part of our own country, and to a limited extent compete with the products of England, Germany and France.

The products from cotton meet the wants and necessities of all people in either torrid or temperate zones; and the manufacture of cotton goods will never fail of a demand, except from the causes of some temporary, abnormal reaction. The world opens to the American cotton manufac-

turer the most brilliant opportunities for the successful manufacture of finer and more costly goods than any that our mills have as yet undertaken. That the skill of the American inventor will before long enable America to dictate to the world the cheap manufacture of fine cotton as successfully as it now dictates the manufacture of Brussels carpeting, depends only upon our continued ability to keep our young men to the study of practical industries and from the temptations of luxury and idleness.

Virginia and Georgia may establish their cotton mills; Northern capital may seek an outlet in the building of mills in all the cotton-producing States of the South; but the mill owners of New England will have nothing to fear until the cotton States of the South are able to take on the invigorating climate of New England, which is a perpetual stimulator of patient industry and ingenious contrivance. Our capitalists will help them build their mills; our mechanics will furnish them their machinery; but nature herself cannot give them our mountain breezes and the invigoration which comes from the rugged climate of our New England homes.

That the coarser products of the mill may not be manufactured to advantage, on the soil of the cotton-raising States of the South, no observing man would question—but New England has the vantage ground for all the finer productions of the mill and loom, and the qualities of its climate must always secure for it the vantage ground of all that depends upon patient and persistent industry.

Our commerce, once so prosperous, has not yet recovered from the blow it received during the suppression of the Rebellion. But it is on the way to renewed health and life. Government will yet come to the aid of the merchant, and subsidies for ships will be considered as much a part of governmental duty in encouraging the art of ship

building, as have been subsidies for railroads to aid our internal commerce. Though for a brief time this sceptre of dominion has passed into other hands, the race will be to the nation, which secures culture for the largest proportion of its people. The New England fisheries will, as in days of old, be stimulated to a new life by the same legitimate means.

New England need have no fears of her mills lying idle or of her homes becoming desolate so long as she adheres to the policy of frugality and industry, which successive generations of the fathers engrafted upon the sons.

"Keep well to the front" has been a maxim we have well comprehended. The living men are front; the well men are front; the sturdy New England men are front; in the rear are the idle and the ignorant, and in their companionship there is nothing of encouragement to civilization or the world.

Necessity is the mother of invention is a maxim which the experience and observation of men enable them thoroughly to endorse. The maxim apparently originated in a great physical necessity, such a necessity perhaps as seldom in our day comes to our New England. But with physical wants well supplied, we have a larger and broader and ever broadening field upon which, as we look out, we see the ever-growing and ever-increasing wants of society and the world—in literature, in art, in mechanics, in agriculture—and the call is no less loud to us who enjoy the work of the skilled hands and trained minds of our predecessors and contemporaries to subdue the soil, bind the streams, chain the winds, store up the lightning, extend the power of steam, and to utilize the treasures of the earth, than to the master minds who have accomplished the grand results of which our civilization may well be proud.

Art is worth nothing to the man who fails to comprehend

it. The various industries of life, simple as they may seem, are Chinese puzzles to the casual observer, who in his ignorance may think them as transparent as the atmosphere.

It is to disabuse the mind of the casual observer of this dangerous conclusion and to bring all our youth to the comprehension of the fact that there is no little and unimportant thing in life, and that however insignificant may look the beginning, there is no climber who has yet even approximated the top round of the ladder upon which he has started to ascend, that we need this continuous and everlasting preaching by word and by illustration.

A very wealthy gentleman, whose son, some years since, graduated at Harvard, told me this item in his domestic history: "A few months before the graduation of my son, he said to me, 'Father, I want to go into business and I would like to have your judgment of the business I had better engage in.'"

The father replied: "I hoped you would be a professional and not a business man."

Said the son: "I have looked the whole field over, and some active business will alone satisfy me. Now, what can I do?" After thinking the matter over for several days, the father again interrogated the son upon his plans for the future. "I am no less determined," said he; "I must and will learn a business." After considerable thought the father said: "The wool business is a good business; how would you like that?" "Very well," said the son. "But you will be obliged to give months and perhaps years of time to make yourself master of it." "Very well; I am prepared." "You will have to work with the wool-sorters, in attic stories, and be the companion of illiterate and ill-bred men." "I am ready," said the son. "You will have to put on overalls and clothe yourself in harmony with your work." "I am good for that, too," said the son.

Meeting a prominent wool merchant shortly afterwards the father asked him if he had a place for a boy in his store. "I am overrun with applications," responded the merchant. "I have a son," continued the father, "who is determined to learn the wool business, and I desire you take him. "Oh," said the merchant, "I could do nothing with your boy." "He is not much of a boy," said the father; "he is twenty-three years of age and has been graduated at Harvard." "Why," said the merchant, "I could do nothing for him unless he would go into the attic and work with the wool-sorters, and your son would not do that."

Another conference was held between the father and the son, and the result was the son put on his overalls, went to work with the wool-sorters in the loft of the store, and now three years have passed—he is in the valley of the Mississippi with a hundred thousand dollars at his command, purchasing wool for his employers, and in a few years his knowledge and skill will make him indispensable to the house, and he will become a junior partner.

This is the material out of which New England thrift has been made. It is still with us and of us and in us. Let us keep it. Let us foster it. Let us not forget that neither wealth or grand surroundings, mastery of Greek or Roman languages, fine address or cultivated manner, or any other superstructure however adorning or inviting, can supply the bed-rock of individual or national greatness, upon which all truly successful men must build and national prosperity can alone be established.

To-day citizens of Falmouth, by sacred and holy prayer ; by the presence of His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth ; by the melody of music and song ; by the assemblage of the people in the many renewed expressions of their right to self-government, do we dedicate this beautiful town hall to the rights of citizenship as laid down by

the fathers—as better understood by their sons in the unfolding progress of civilization and christianity, and to the still further unfolding which the future may have in store for the sons who are to succeed us.

In this hall may the discussion of the great civil polity of the Town, the State and the Nation be forever free. May no hot and excited language mar the polish and beauty of self-respect, or respect for contemporaries whose rights to be heard are always equal with our own.

And if in the progress of American citizenship, new fields may be opened; new alliances established, and a broader usefulness developed, may this Hall be forever the sacred arena, where the barometer of government shall indicate the recognition of the highest individual liberty and the highest individual responsibility.

And let it be inserted on banner and wall; taught in the home, the school, from the rostrum and pulpit—educated industry is the protection of youth—the glory of manhood, the security of American Institutions, and the basis of national wealth and prosperity.



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